

From: DDAVIES --VAU0002A  
To: WWEBB --VUS0212A William H. Webb  
cc: OSMITH --VUS0212A Owen Smith

Date and time 03/10/94 16:27:31  
DDANGOOR--VUS0212A David Dangoor  
SCONNOR --VAU0002A Henry Goldberg

**FAXED**  
3/18

Australia  
Labelling

G.C. Brice.  
F.Y.I.

From: David Rees Davies

Subject: Labelling

We have met with representatives of the Health Minister and the Department of Health to discuss implementation of federal labelling regulations. We were advised that certain requirements were "non-negotiable". These included the position, size and color of the warning statements. There was agreement to review the implementation date and to include a provision which would obviate the necessity of changing packaging to meet changed regulations in Western Australia, ACT and Victoria which would become effective prior to the effective date of federal regulations. We have received confirmation that the Minister is considering the addition of provisions which would delay compliance until January 1, 1995. There was also agreement to consider retaining existing reporting methods for tar, nicotine and C.O., i.e. banding in stipulated levels "or less" rather than the average delivery of each individual variant. We have drafted at the department's request amendatory language to reflect these changes which has been submitted to the Office of Legislative Drafting and the Attorney General for review. If found suitable by those bodies we have been advised that the regulations will be "adjusted appropriately". There is a meeting of all health ministers on March 20, 1994 chaired by Peter Foss of W.A. We are anxious to finalize the regulations prior to that meeting since we believe that there is some opposition to the federal regulations from Foss and others and we do not want to risk more draconian provisions being recommended by the meeting. We will continue our discussions with the federal agencies to that end.

Best regards  
David

As predicted the  
labelling issue is  
not an area for  
further negotiation  
except to avoid  
any more  
adverse developments

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